

# Action

Hello and welcome to Action Girl Comics #12, arriving shockingly close on the heels of #11 (to you as well as me, I'm sure!!). After #11 was rescheduled for May, and then ran late, I didn't know if I could pull myself back onto the regular schedule, but I somehow managed it. I'll be staying on schedule too --AGC will be back in 3 months with a Halloween #13 we've all been brewing up for you.

Elizabeth Watasin is back this ish, with a new Action Girl/Ultra Girl/(with a teency bit of Flying Girl) adventure - but you won't have to wait a whole year to see her again this time. She'll be back for lucky #13 this Fall! Elizabeth had no real editorial comments this time other than: "Thanks for

reading this. Hope you had a good time. Robot!"

I've been even busier than usual lately, which is why I am now sleeping on this isotonic pillow — I can't believe I bought a pillow that cost more than \$5, but boy oh boy does it make me sleep well. Ahhh, I'd like to be laying on it right now....anyway, I'm currently coloring the Amy Racecar Color (duh) Special for El Capitan Books, which should be out about the same time as this is. Evan and I are writing a special for DC - Supergirl Adventures, a one-shot which will introduce the animated Supergirl to the (animated) comics universe. And we're continuing to write episodes of Space Ghost Coast-to-Coast too, among other things.

Finally, for any brand new readers who may be new to Action Girl, here's the obligatory Action rhetoric: Action Girl Comics is an anthology showcasing female cartoonists. AGC has an all-ages sensibility, and is girl-positive and female-friendly — but never anti-boy. The material contained in this book is hand-picked by me and will always reflect my sensibilities. Hopefully, you will enjoy what I have to offer --- so please enjoy, no matter who or what you are! And please, take the "action" in Action Girl to heart — action of any kind!

can really make you feel better about yourself. Start a band, start recycling, start a new hobby. Teach yourself how to do something interesting or fun. Do whatever you want - just do!

Thanks go to: Tavisha Wolfgarth for the be-yoo-ti-ful cover and spot illos this issue; to her monkey slave boy helper Rosearik Rikki for assistance to both of us ("Rikkiiiiii, how'd you save those tif files again? <snif>"); Steve Kongsle for all his assistance to Elizabeth; Evan for trying very hard to be quiet so I could crank out these last editorial segments; and

Do all those things you've been wanting to! Whether it's a big or little thing, taking control of your life and doing things

Send letters, comments, submissions, and presents of Sancio to: Sarah Dyer, AGC PO Box 060380 Staten Island, NY 10306

e-mail: alilena@aol.com

to all of YOU! This issue was completed mainly to the sounds of silence (well, household ambient noise), broken occasionally by the odd Curve or B-52s CD; and rocket-fueled by gallons of coca-cola and sugared up by Russell Stover Coconut Crisps (don't know why I bought 'em, but man am I hooked!). Currently loaded into the PSX: Motortoon Grand Prix; loaded into the Saturn: Riglord Saga/Mystaria/ Blazing Heroes. (Where is that dratted Rayearth game?!) See you on Halloween, cats and kittens — 'til then, take care and live in Action!!

– xoxo, Sarah



Action Girl Comics #12 - July 18, 1997 Created and edited by Sarah Dyer. Published by Slave Labor Graphics. President: "Nature Boy" Dan Vado; Publisher: Craig "the ICON" Pape. Action Girl title and character © & ™ Sarah Dyer. All contents © 1997 by the respective artists. No part of this magazine may be reproduced by any means, including electronically, without written permission. try •1 11 h Any similarity to persons living or dead is satirical in nature or a complete accident. Printed in Canada. Ha ha, Maria, stinks to live where you do...

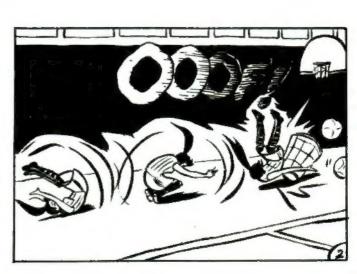


























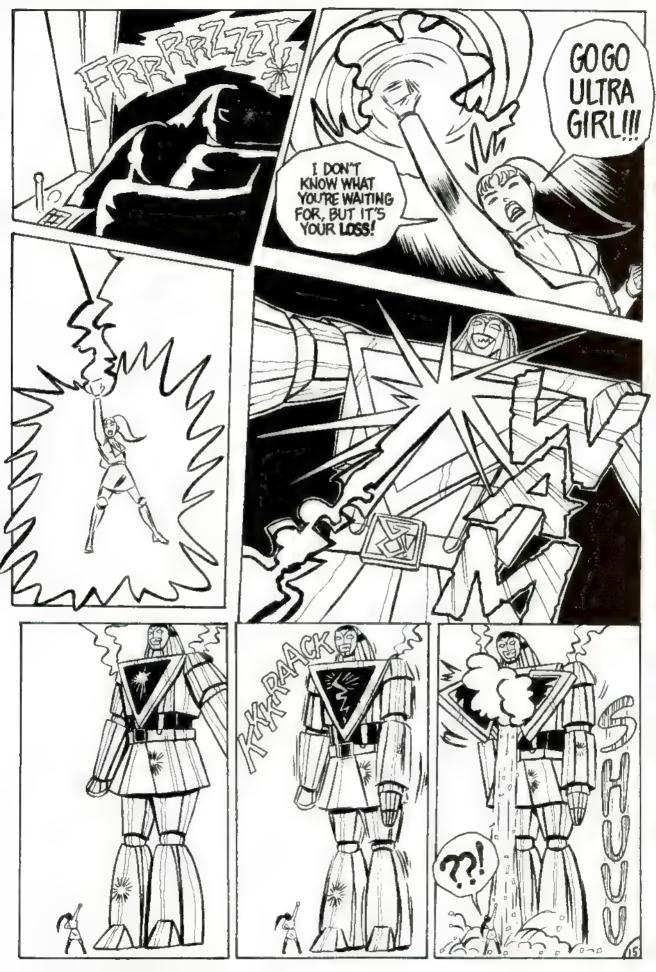


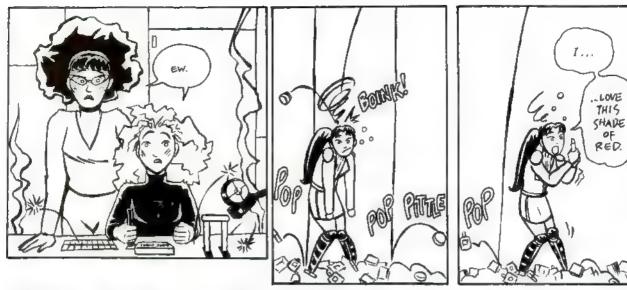
















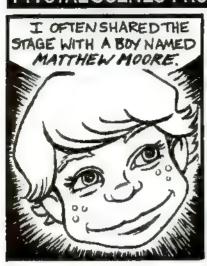


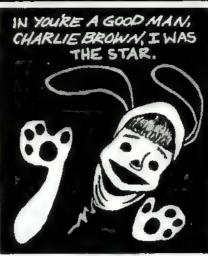






#### PIVOTAL SCENES FROM MY LIFE AS A STAGE ACTRESS BY LESLEE T. PARKER



















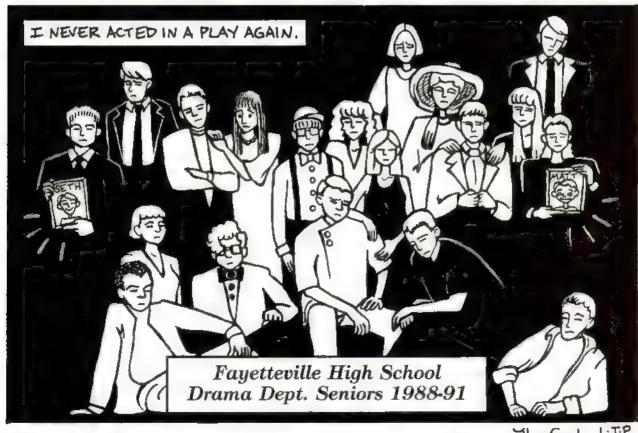


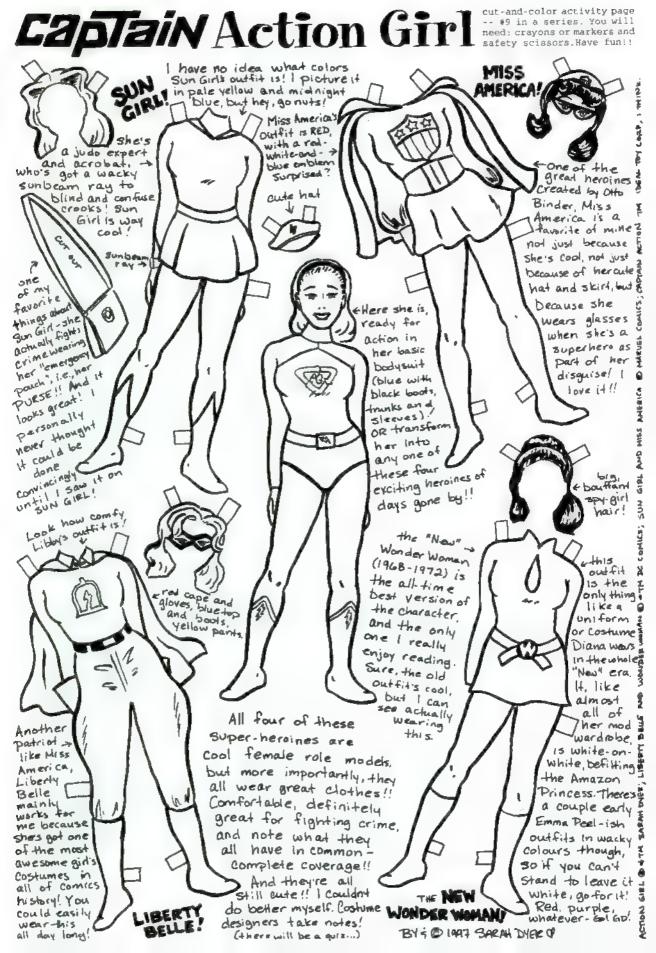


LATER THAT YEAR, I PLAYED THE WIDOW IN NIGHT OF JANUARY 16th, AND MATT'S BEST FRIEND SETH PLAYED A LAWYER.



TWO MONTHS BEFORE
GRADUATION, MATT AND SETH
WERE KILLED IN A CAR
ACCIDENT.





### Your Hostesses:



Tavisha Wolfgarth (cover) is an honest-to-goodness San Fernando Valley Girl of lapanese/German heritage. She is a self-taught artist, her drawing style heavily influenced by manga - both shoujo (girls') and shonen (boys') styles - and anime. She enjoys gothic, British in-

dustrial, and Japanese pop music, and her apartment is decorated in late Post-Modern Gothic-Robo/Hello Kitty. She hopes to help make a change in the American comic industry, bringing in more women and younger readers by creating fun, light-hearted characters and stories.



Elizabeth Watasin ("Her Day") would like to thank Steve Kongsle for all his assistance and for being a swell guy all around. Her work regularly appears in Action Girl as well as in her own comic, A-Girl, which you can obtain by sending \$2 to: 120S. San Fernando Blvd., #231. Burbank CA 91502, Robot!

Leslee T. Parker ("Pivotal Scenes...") would like to thank Mr. Warren Rosenaur of Fayetteville High (in Arkansas) for providing a muchneeded reference photo. We couldn't have asked for a better drama teacher! Leslee's work has appeared in Action Girl and Shock The Monkey. Cheerful correspondence may be sent to: 7844 St.

Thomas Drive, Baltimore, MD insight@clark.net





#### Those Four Fabulous Heroines:

No, no, not meand Elizabeth and Tavi and Leslee — I'm talking about the four superheroines depicted in the newest activity page. You know, the one right over there? To your left? I thought it'd be cool to have a little more info for you... Sun Girl was introduced in 1948 in her very own book, Sun Girl. The "Mysterious Beauty" had a special "sunbeam ray", but usually she simply used her great fighting skills and plain out beat crooks into submission. Her book only lasted 3 issues, and then she appeared as the original Human Torch's sidekick before disappearing into oblivion. She remained "mysterious" throughout her career, never revealing a civilian identity! Miss America was among Otto Binder's many cool heroines (most notable among his creations are Supergirl and Mary Marvel). She, unlike the other three girls here, actually had superpowers (flying, x-ray vision, etc), derived from a lightning blast (?). Debuting in 1943, she was the female counterpart to Captain America, although they never met until after the war. (Well, he was "over there" and all that.) Miss A was one of the longest running heroines of her era, lasting until 1948. Liberty Belle was another wartime heroine, who debuted in 1942, fighting spies and saboteurs — in a twist on the usual, she had a helpful civilian boyfriend. I've actually never seen a Liberty Belle story, so I can't tell you much, except I know she wears a little pin of the Liberty Bell which vibrates when the real Liberty Bell is struck (??), summoning her to fight for America. The New Wonder Woman may not be so new anymore, but she in the coolest Wonder Woman ever. I've always liked Wonder Woman (although I preferred Supergirl growing up), but as I've started going back and reading various issues and reprints from throughout her history I've started to realize that WW has just never been a really good book. The character's too powerful, and she's a total dilettante --- Superman may be powerful, but he's an orphan with a need to fit in; Wonder Woman can go home any time she wants. She's kind of like a slumming rich girl, when you think about it. The "New" Wonder Woman was created in 1968 to save the book from cancellation — and it's a whole new ballgame. They get rid of Steve (thank you!), Paradise Island, and force Diana to make a real choice — go off with her sisters, or stay in "man's world" and lose her powers. She finally makes a real commitment to her role as a hero, and becomes much more believable, even — or maybe especially — without powers. Without supernatural powers, fighting for justice is truly a heroic effort, and Diana proves herselfably. The cool spy-style-inspired clothes don't hurt either!! The "New" WW lasted for four-and-a-half years, and was worked on by amazing people like Denny O'Neil, Samuel Delaney, Jeff Jones and Mike Sekowsky. Unfortunately, like all good things it had to end (I don't know this for sure, but my guess is that when the option was sold to TV they needed to get her back into costume quick), and she's never been the same since.

## Further Rambling

Mini-comics: An update from Abby Denson - there was a typo in Tough Love #6 (reviewed last issue), which I then reproduced, in the worst of all places; the address! So please reroute your \$1 + stamps to: Abby Denson, 248 West Park Ave. suite 271, Long Beach, NY 11561. Now on to this issue's stuff! dear sister george is a wonderful new mini with just gorgeous art. It's a little non-traditional, being made up of scratch board illustrations accompanied by text (and with text in the illustration as well in classic comic style), but it reads just fine. It's sort of half mood piece, half narrative, and works on many levels. I really like it and hope to see more soon - if you would too, write



from dear sister george

away! No price given, but I'd suggest sending \$2 or a sase for info to: Clover Paek, c/o Erica Cho, 203 West Hamilton Ave, State College PA 16801. Another great mini that seemed to come out of nowhere was **Tequila With Lime**, by Diana Tamblyn. It's a neat little story (with great art — just look at it!) about two friends stopping in a bar to get out of the rain, in the middle of an emotionally fraught road trip. (And no, it's not *Thelma & Louise* redux.) Solid storytelling of a really good story — there's tons of content packed into this little mini. It certainly held my attention longer than some fullsize comics I've seen lately, and had more depth, too. Send \$2 to get your tequila with lime to: Diana Tamblyn, 90 lvy Ave, Toronto,

Diana Tamblyn, Tequila With Lime

Ontario, M4L 2H7, CANADA.

Not-so-minicomics: Oh... is still going strong, and issue#16 has just crossed my path. Now more of a comic/zine thing, this issue contains a thought-provoking essay on relationships, more prose and of course, comics! A new Agent Street episode, er, installment is a tender chronicle of forgiveness and, of course, the secret agent biz, as well as a Tara King story and more....Send \$4.95 to: Oh..., POB 41030, 5134 Cordova Bay Rd, Victoria BC, V8Y 2K0, CANADA. Artbabe from AGC contributor Jessica Abel has made the jump to Fantagraphics with this issue, sporting a wonderful wrap-around full-color painted cover, and containing a full length, self-contained (albeit open-ended) tale of star-crossed slackers. Jessica's ear for dialogue and her innovative use of the he said/she said format make this an interesting read (especially with all that great art to lookat). Available from fine comic stores everywhere.

Girl-friendly by guys (and gals): Zot/ Book One (Kitchen Sink) — Zot/ has long been one of the books people mention to me as "something I should check out". Unfortunately, it was long

out of print and not that easy to get. But finally, a reprint series has been started! Book One contains the first ten issues of Zot! in full color, to be followed by three more volumes to complete the entire run. (Unfortunately, this series was being

put out by Kitchen Sink, who have just apparently gone out of business. So I have no idea when or if it will be continued.) For those of you who are fans, this is a long-awaited present — and for those of you who, like me, are new to Zot!, this is a great way to get all the issues in one fell swoop. Briefly, the title character (Zot) is a teenage hero in his own (futuristic science-fictiony) dimension, but one day crosses over into ours — and when he leaves, a young girl named Jenny and her brother Butch return with him. Their adventures follow in great style. Very Ozzy in both story and design (although with superhero conventions and a clean style laid atop), Zot! is great fun, and I really did enjoy it as much as everyone said I would. This would definitely be a nice present for anyone you're trying to get interested in comics. And — there's monkeys! Makoto Kobayashi's What's Michael? Volume One: Michael's Album (Dark Horse Comics), is the latest



## Further Rambling

addition to Dark Horse's incredibly strong line of translated manga, and one I've been waiting to see for ages! What's Michael? is a series of strips about a cat, Michael—but the strips are not connected, and don't even share a continuity. Sometimes he's just a cat, sometimes he's a cat with human thoughts and reactions, and sometimes he lives in a world of animals who wear clothes and act like people. Sort of. It's incredibly difficult to describe, and perhaps if you don't like cats you won't find this amusing, but everyone I know thinks Michael is hysterical. Just pick up a copy—the first two strips will give the idea of the scope and content of this series: the first one

puts a new twist on cats' habit of pretending they know what they're doing when they screw up; while the second one is a hysterical look at what a police interrogation might look like if everyone

involved was a cat. It really does defy description, but if you have even a passing fondness or appreciation for cats, this is a definite must-have! And for another look at cats and their human traits, check out **Reality Check!** (Sirius) by Rosearik Rikki and (this issue's cover and spot illo artist) Tavisha Wolfgarth. (The book's full name is actually Super Information Hijinks: Reality Check!, which ought to clue you in a little here...) I've been putting off reviewing it so I could talk about it in this issue with all Tavi's work, and there's <u>seven</u> issues now! So bear with me...to quickly recap the series, it's the future (2012 AD to be exact), and our main character Collin (an L.A. high school student who's smart, nice, but somewhat shy and cursed with a really cruddy homelife) has gotten his first "True Virtual Reality" helmet, with which he can log on the internet of the future (the

"Virtual Internet System"), a real-time, fully-3D-rendered virtual reality in which you can travel, hang out with friends, go to real and fictional places and more. Unfortunately, his cat Catreece decides to try it for herself (playing with the remote just isn't enough anymore) and through some glitch appears in the VIS as a humanoid cat-girl who retains her cat personality but gains relatively normal human characteristics as well. Obviously, she isn't going to leave this new fun alone! So her (and Collin's) adventures begin!! The book itself is a lot of fun — the writing is really funny and cute without ever being cutesy. There's tons of great supporting characters — Collin's net-genius pal Maiko; the super-cool internet superheroine La La La La Loopy; Ranklechick, a fictional ghoul who's taken on a life of his own, and his cat/pal Pumpernick; Collin's scary but entertaining family; Collin's friend Erk; and (how can I

forget?) Lady Baton! While the series is definitely <u>serial</u>, each issue can stand alone. And, don't be intimidated by all the computer jargon! While those of us who are more than slightly techy will get a huge laugh out of some of these oh-too-familiar scenes, you don't need to understand computers or the internet at all to enjoy this book. And don't miss the special "How Rikki and Tavi make RC! Every Month" back-up in #3, featuring my favorite line, "Hee-hee! Your suffering amuses me! Let's make a comic!" which cracks me up every time. And the art! It's just too cool for school! Tavi draws these adorable pages, see, with a sort of manga-influenced style but without that weird

American-manga look, but with all the weird little storytelling devices I love so much in manga, then Rikki does this freaky cool coloring/painting job and turns the pages into candy coated fun! And everyone has cute clothes. (Have I said that before?) You should be able to find RC! at any decent comic shop, but if you have trouble tracking it down, call Sirius up at 201-347-6634 or write tavicat@aol.com for more info. (And check out the official RC! site at http://members.aol.com/ tavicat/comics.html for more info and a dancing Catreece! On AOL, visit the RC! folder in the Comic Forum's General Interest area and say hi!)



all illos on this page by Tavisha Wolfgarth, Reality Check!

## Action Mail Staten Island, NY 10306 e-mail: alilena@ aol.com

Sarah Dyer, POB 060380

I just wanted

read most of the Action Girl comics, and really like them. I know that you review 'zine, but I was just wondering if you ever accept submissions? Well, keep up the great work! Try to get some sleep one of these days (that's what I must do now). Thanks.

to say thanks! I've

Tess

Hello Sarah -- I have a question about Action Girl. Do you accept unsolicited artwork and cartoons, i.e. if I sent something in is there a chance that it would be published? Thanks very much,

Cathy Leamy

I've gotten so many questions on submissions lately (which is great! I'm so glad to see so many girls trying to do comics), I thought I'd use some space here to give a little more info. I certainly do accept unsolicited submissions - in fact, I don't really solicit contributions at all, as I just don't have as much time for AGC as I'd like. Almost every contributor to AGC got in by simply sending me her stuff to look atl I do have definite ideas about what is and is not appropriate for AGC, and since it's basically me going on my intuition, it's not something I can really outline - but if you read the book regularly, you should have some idea what works. Some ground rules: the book is all ages, so profanity and nudity are automatically out; art needs to be in a format compatible with AGC (I am happy to help out there); and you do need to be a girl, since that's what AGC is all about. Some advice: before you start sending work to anyone, give yourself plenty of time to learn and develop. Do lots of work for yourself, and start putting your work out in mini-comics format to gain experience in both technique

and publishing. I can't promise to use yourwork, but I'd be happy to take a look at it. If you want to send something in please make sure you include your address and any other way I can contact you, and also let me know if you want a simple yes or no, or if you want a critique of your work. I hesitate to give people detailed feedback unless they ask for it, but I also hate to not explain why I feel the way I do (positively or negatively) about their work. Finally, be patient. I try to get to things like submissions as quickly as possible (compared to the rest of the mail, that is) but I'm so overburdened right now it could literally be months. Don't take it personally if I don't get back to you quickly! And on the subject of reviews — please send in complete mail-order information whenever you submit something for review (by me or anyone else)! Current mailing address and mail-order price — I regularly get stuff that I don't have enough info on to review. And now for a boost for me...

Dear Sarah, I don't know where to start Action Girl is just so brilliant. It's funny, intelligent and totally girl positive. I don't know how I've managed to live without it. Your words in AG #10 (my 1st issue) really inspired me. Hove comics but a lot of girls are put off going into comic shops because they are full of intimidating guys or they simply don't know where to start. My friend Angela and I have both been inspired to set up a comics distro service and hopefully a little shop in the future...I too love Sanrio though it's really hard to get hold of in Scotland. Love & best wishes, Emma.

New converts all over the globe, that's what I like to see!! Thanks so much for your letter, Emma, and to everyone else who lets me know when they've been inspired or made happy or cheered up after a hard day by AGC. It's all your letters that make the work worthwhile!



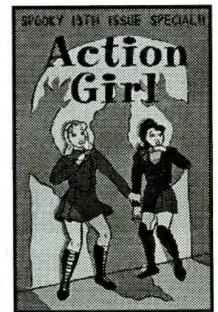




I forgot to write it every where else, so let me just mention that I am looking for any more stories involving this issue's fab four heroines, especially Sun Girl and Miss America — I just want to read them, so if you know where reading copies, reprints oreven photocopies can be found, please drop me a line! I need more Sun Girl! This issue's been a pretty freaky experience the delayed schedule of #11 combined with the early (convention-related) deadline for #12 meant that I ended up finishing this issue before some stores had even gotten #11 in stock! And of course the final stages are always this side of making me crazy - but finally she's finished. Whew! Thanks to everyone who's been writing and emailing! See you all next time! - xoxo Sarah

#### Next time:

A spooky 13th issue just in time for Halloween!! All scary all the time!!! Featuring Jill Thompson, Elizabeth Watasin, Sarah Dyer, Patty Leidy, Chris Tobey, and lots lots scary more!!



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### Action Girl Online

Now, in the spirit of modernity, we at the House of Fun have our very own web site and domain! Visit the new home of the AGC web page, along with the future home of everything else we can think of at:

http://www.houseoffun.com

See you there!

## Cool Action Stuff!!

Check out the nifty-keen new Action Girl t-shirt — in FULL COLOR!!! Well, five colors, anyway. The new shirt "Flying Action Girl" (as seen below — \$15.95) joins the first two shirts, "Action Girl On the Moon" (cool space motif, drawn for me by Action Boy Evan; purple ink on white — \$13.95) and "Team Action Girl" (bowling motif, drawn by me; black ink on white — \$13.95). They all come in M, L and XL. Note: these shirts are big!!

I'm 5'10" and I may be on the skinny side but even the medium isn't tight on me. I recommend ordering smaller than you might think you need. Unless of course you just go for that baggy shirt look. (Add postage on all shirts.)

#### What else have I got for you, you ask?

Lots more! There are now <u>twelves</u> issues of Action Girl Comics available, and they're all in print! If you're missing one, there's no time like the present to fill in your collection! Here's what we've got: #1 — the premiere issue of your favorite anthology. (2nd printing.) #2 — features "Mortality" by Elizabeth Watasin. (2nd printing.) #3 — As seen in Newsweek! (2nd

printing.) #4 — "Pensive AG" cover, Action Girl and Susanoo stories. #5 — "Halloween Party" cover, first birthday issue.

#6 — "AG & FG" cover, Flying Girl story "Morning". #7
— "Flying AG" cover, AG/FG story "Big Present". #8
— The all Elizabeth Watasin special!! #9 — Color activity page bonus!! #10 — "Canteen Action Girl" cover. #11 — "April Showers Bring May Flowers". #12 — This one! All issues are \$2.75, plus postage.

#### Anything else?

Action Girl

Gee, you're demanding, aren'tcha? Slave Labor publishes all sorts of cool alternative-type books, including others I've worked on. Simply write to Slave Labor and say: "Hey, guys! I love Action Girl! Send me a catalog!" and you will receive a FREE! Action Girl sticker and the latest Slave Labor catalog. Send your name and mailing address, and please, write clearly!

#### Wow, how can I get this stuff?

Ordering from Slave Labor is fun and easy! Simply add the following postage to your total: BOOKS — \$1.75 for the first book, 25¢ for each additional book; T-SHIRTS — \$2.50 for the first t-shirt, \$1.00 for each additional shirt. (Readers outside of the US write or call to ask about shipping rates.) if you live in CA, it stinks to be you, 'cause you've got to add 7.75% sales tax. Send your order with check or money order to: Slave Labor Graphics, 979 S. Bascom Ave, San Jose CA 95128; or, if you wish to use your credit card call 1-800-866-8929, or fax your order to (408) 279-0451. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery (the mailroom monkeys keep getting stuck to the packing tape). And if you're not ready to order — don't forget the catalog!

#### Hey, I want this stuff in my store!

RETAILERS: Most Slave Labor product is available on wholesale terms to qualified retailers. Call the office for up to date product availability, and terms and conditions. Minimums are low! Discounts are competitive! Keep your customers happy, and keep Action Girl in stock!! Plus: I will psychically send you a personal thank you, even though you won't know it.

1-800-866-8929

## E LABOR WORLD TOUR!

Bob Hope's got nothing on us. Someone from the mighty SLG/AMAZE Ink powerhouse will be appearing somewhere near you. Stop by, say hi, buy us food or (if you're of legal age) a drink.

#### DRAGON-CON June 26-29 Atlanta GA.

Evan Dorkin and Sarah Dyer All Speeppearing all three days.

#### CHICAGO COMIC/CON

July 4-6 • Resemont Convention Center.

Dan Vado, Craig Pape (Forres & First Levins (Copybook Tales), Sean McKeever & Brian and Bromson Fram (The Waiting Place), Phil Hester (The Wretch), Andi Watson (Skeleion Key) and a very others to be announced.

### COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL SAN DIEGO

July 17-20 San Diego Convention Center

Dan Vado, Craig Poise Lack Rau, Andi Watson, Streene Simmons, Cris

Dornaus, Jhonep Vasquer Evan Dorkin, Sarah Dyer Jan Hill, Brent Anderson,

Andrew Jaylor and more to be consumed.

#### SLG AMOUSE INK OPEN HOUSE

Come and celebrate Sieve Later Day weekend with us as we throw the doors of our affice for an open house. Your hosts Dan Vada, Craic and Zack Row will be there as will same at the various SLC Annote creators (we'll tell you whowhen we know). Call our office as

1-800-866-8929 for more information.

#### WORDS & PICTURES MUSEUM-

Schurday Sept. 20 • Northampton, MA

The mother of all conventions for us) because it's in our home town. Dan Vado, Zack Rau, Craig Pape, Jhonen Vasquez and many many more.

Call the Slave Labor home office to find out who's going to be where or to get a copy of our FREE catalog. Slave Labor/Amaze Ink. Conquering the world one block at a time.

## 900-966-992<sup>1</sup>



Kloude Goddess sean.